

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 2001-263

May 15, 2001

CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY
Request for Approval of Affiliated Interest
Transaction with Union Water Power Company
For Installation of Fiber Cable and Hardware from
the Bath 115 kV Substation Control House Aerially
Along Section 55 to the Washington Street
Substation Control House

ORDER

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT and DIAMOND, Commissioners

I. SUMMARY

In this Order we approve an affiliated interest transaction between Central Maine Power Company (CMP) and its affiliate Union Water Power Company (Union), through Union's "On-Target" business division, whereby On-Target will install approximately 8700 feet of fiber optic cable along a CMP transmission power line in Bath, Maine.

II. BACKGROUND

On April 11, 2001, CMP filed a request for approval of an affiliated interest transaction with Union. The transaction involves installation of owner-furnished ADSS fiber cable and hardware from the Bath 115 kV S/S control house, aerially along Section 55 to the Washington Street S/S control house. The cable will be used for CMP communications between the two substations. CMP issued a request for quotation (RFQ) on March 16, 2001, to four companies and received four bids. On Target was selected as the low-cost vendor through the competitive bid process.

III. DECISION

No public utility may arrange for the furnishing of any service with an affiliated interest until the Commission finds that the arrangement is not adverse to the public interest. 35-A M.R.S.A. § 707(3). In previous arrangements between Union and CMP approved by this Commission, the Commission has considered whether the arrangement has been made on an arms-length basis. Entering into a contract with an affiliate based on that affiliate's submitting the lowest bid through a fair bidding process is one indicator that a transaction is arms-length and likely to be in the public interest.

The material¹ submitted with CMP's petition indicates that a fair bidding procedure took place and that On-Target was chosen based on its submitting the lowest bid.

Accordingly, we

O R D E R

That the arrangement between Central Maine Power Company and Union Water Power Company described in CMP's petition filed April 11 and May 7, 2001, is approved.

Dated at Augusta, Maine, this 15th day of May, 2001.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Dennis L. Keschl
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR: Nugent
 Diamond

COMMISSIONER ABSENT: Welch

¹On April 13, CMP requested a protective order covering the materials submitted by bidders in response to RFQ. The Hearing Examiner issued a Protective Order on May 4 and CMP submitted the confidential information on May 7, 2001.

NOTICE OF RIGHTS TO REVIEW OR APPEAL

5 M.R.S.A. § 9061 requires the Public Utilities Commission to give each party to an adjudicatory proceeding written notice of the party's rights to review or appeal of its decision made at the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The methods of review or appeal of PUC decisions at the conclusion of an adjudicatory proceeding are as follows:

1. Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 1004 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R.110) within 20 days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which reconsideration is sought.
2. Appeal of a final decision of the Commission may be taken to the Law Court by filing, within 30 days of the date of the Order, a Notice of Appeal with the Administrative Director of the Commission, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(1)-(4) and the Maine Rules of Appellate Procedure.
3. Additional court review of constitutional issues or issues involving the justness or reasonableness of rates may be had by the filing of an appeal with the Law Court, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(5).

Note: The attachment of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the particular document may be subject to review or appeal. Similarly, the failure of the Commission to attach a copy of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the document is not subject to review or appeal.